

# User Administration Report

Mary Anne Corwin

USER ADMINISTRATION HEAD

## User Statistics

During the past year, 2206 badged users performed experiments at the NSLS, almost a third of them (681 users) for the first time.

For users who conducted experiments at the NSLS facility during the year, 31% indicated their primary field of research as materials sciences, 37% as life sciences, 8% chemical sciences, 9% geosciences and ecology, 10% applied science and engineering, and 5% optical/nuclear/general physics.

While the number of users in particular fields of science is indicative of *who* is using the facility, it does not show *how* the facility is used. Since 1999, the NSLS has reported statistical data based on actual usage of the facility. This information is extracted from beam time used by each of the 1145 experiments performed in FY03. This year, nearly 42% of the beam time used was utilized by experiments conducted in the field of materials sciences. The remaining beam time was utilized by biological and life sciences (18%), physics, except condensed matter (4%), chemistry excluding materials chemistry (5%), polymers (3%), medical applications (2%), earth sciences (6%), environmental sciences (4%), optics (3%), engineering (3%), instrumentation (5%), particle accelerator R&D (1%), radiation source R&D (2%), and other (1%). The primary difference in the number of users versus the amount of beam time utilized for a given field of research is explained by the fact that materials sciences experiments utilize considerably more beam time than other experiments. This is particularly true for experiments in the biological/life sciences. In addition, there are generally a lower number of experimenters utilizing the facility for materials experiments than there are for biological/life sciences experiments.

The primary source of user funding can also be determined based on beam time usage at the facility. During FY03, experiments funded by the Department of Energy's Office of Basic Energy Sciences (DOE/BES) within the Office of Science utilized 33% of the facility's beam time. Other programs in the DOE complex utilized an additional 7% of the beam time. Facility usage by other *primary sources* of user support included NSF (16%), NIH (11%), and Industry (10%).

More than 67% of our users are affiliated with U.S. and foreign academic institutions. Other affiliations include BNL employees who are facility users (11%), other DOE contractor employees (2%), other federal agencies (5%), industry (7%), and other (8%).

The 2206 users who visited our facility in FY03 are affiliated with 376 unique U.S. and foreign institutions, including 233 academic institutions, 65 industrial institutions, 24 federal government agencies, 25 non-governmental laboratories, and 29 other institutions.

Faculty members at universities or colleges, professional staff and scientists at private, and national or industrial laboratories account for



the greatest population of users (38%), followed by graduate students (33%), postdoctoral research associates (19%), undergraduate students (5%), and retired, self-employed, or other (4%).

Users come to the NSLS from around the globe. Though half are citizens of other countries, only 13% of all our users physically arrive from outside the U.S. to perform research here at the NSLS. All others are affiliated with a U.S. institution. About 36% arrive from New York institutions and another 27% are affiliated with institutions in the northeast. Our remaining users come from U.S. institutions outside of the northeast.

### Security Compliance

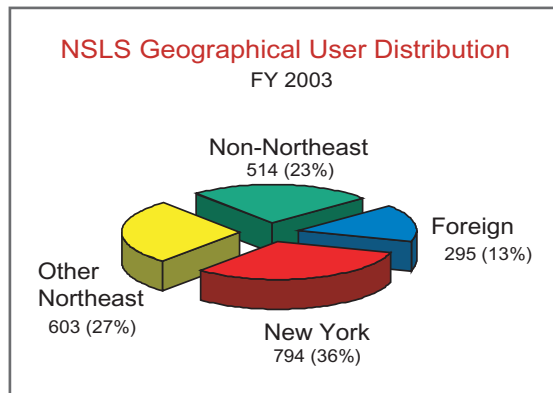
A laboratory directive was issued in FY03 requiring strict adherence to DOE Notice 142.1 pertaining to requirements for unclassified visits, assignments, and activities by foreign nationals to DOE facilities. Our users were subsequently notified of new site access policies and requirements. Though the NSLS had hoped to see little disruption in our programs and use of the facility, we found that many users encountered problems accessing the site and others were required to leave BNL until appropriate documentation and/or approvals were secured. The most common problems experienced by our users are detailed below. The number of occurrences has decreased quite a bit over the last year, but there are still two or three users each month experiencing considerable delays.

**Visa Problems:** Upon entering the U.S., a user possessed appropriate paperwork for a work visa, but Immigration incorrectly issued documentation pertaining to a tourist visa. The user arrived at User Administration the same day but could not finalize the appointment. The process required that the user return to the airport within 24 hours of entry to correct the documentation. Unfortunately, if the documents are not corrected within 24 hours, the user is unable to work at BNL.

**Approval Lead Time:** A scientist from a northeastern university arrived at BNL after submitting the online registration form less than one week earlier. The form indicated an arrival date five days later. More than eight reviews are required before approval is granted and, at times, the process can take up to 45 days. User Administration immediately notified the scientist that he could not access the site until approval was granted. Disregarding the information, the scientist arrived the following weekend expecting to begin his experiment. After learning that access to the facility could not be granted, he returned to the university.

**Appointment Renewals:** A Ph.D. from a local institution arrived at BNL with an expired BNL identification badge without having submitted the registration form requesting an extension to his appointment. The user was required to leave the BNL site until his extension was requested and approval had been granted. A review of his file indicated he was previously notified that his appointment was terminated and was provided instructions on how to extend his appointment.

**Visa Status:** Although users receive two-year appointments, their termination date may extend beyond their visa expiration date. When that date arrives, the next time the user enters the main gate at BNL, the



badge scanning system will display a “yellow” light indicating that the user’s passport and/or visa are out of status. One of our guest scientists arrived at BNL with a valid appointment and valid BNL identification badge. The badge scanned “yellow” and the guard advised the user to check in at User Administration to update his visa information. Once entered, the scanning system will display a “green” light. However, the user’s documentation was at home, more than 200 miles away, and he was required to leave BNL until the documentation could be presented.

#### Escorting at the NSLS and Open to the Public Events:

Historically, the NSLS has permitted non-users to be escorted onto the experimental floor provided certain safety requirements have been met. With the lab’s new directive to come into compliance with DOE Order 142.1, changes took place in laboratory accessibility and escorting procedures, and with regard to “open to the public” events, especially for our foreign national users and visitors.

BNL management has indicated that foreign nationals attending “open to the public” events may tour other facilities while on site provided the tour is part of the event (not a separate event).

There is no provision to permit a foreign national to be escorted onto the NSLS experimental floor unless the visitor (1) has a valid BNL ID badge, (2) is attending an “open to the public” event that specifically includes a tour of the experimental floor, or (3) has registered in the BNL’s Guest Information System and their appointment and record have been activated. Additionally, foreign nationals performing any type of work or observing experiments at the NSLS must register and receive approval prior to arrival.

I would like to thank our users for their cooperation in helping the NSLS to maintain compliance with DOE requirements. Please contact our office at (631) 344-8737 with any questions.

